GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
AGRICULTURE
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1592
ANSWERED ON:07.03.2001
DECLINE IN PRICES OF AGRICULTURAL PRODUCTS
MADHAVRAO SCINDIA

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have come to the conclusion that the farmers` woes are attributable mainly to transport constraints, restrictions and imports;

(b) if so, extent to which prices of agricultural products have fallen under these constraints; and

(c) the steps taken by Government to help the farmers?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SRIPAD Y. NAIK)

(a): The recent declining trend in the prices of certain agricultural commodities may be attributed mainly to increased availability by way of higher production and/ imports and fall in international prices for major agricultural commodities like, wheat, rice, edible oils, etc.

(b): The wholesale price index (WPI) number for the week ending 17.02.2001 shows an annual fall in rice (1.3 per cent), wheat (2.0 per cent), jowar (16.4 per cent), bajra (23.2 per cent), maize (9.4 per cent), barely (27.3 per cent), ragi (13.0 per cent), arhar (8.5 per cent), rapeseed/mustard seed (12.4 per cent), copra (23.2 per cent),etc.

(c): Steps taken to protect the interests of the farmers include fixation of minimum support prices of major agricultural commodities and procurement thereof through public and cooperative agencies, implementation of the Market Intervention Scheme(MIS) covering horticultural and minor items of produce at the request of the State Governments and using instruments of trade to discourage imports and encourage exports.